

STATEMENT OF PURPOSE

RS18756C1

This legislation provides the following solutions for current problems associated with elections:

- To provide uniformity and professionalism in all elections, the authority to conduct any election is vested with the County Clerk.
- To provide voter information, County Clerks will now be responsible for the notification of all elections including legal notices, voter guides, polling place personnel and election expenses.
- To enhance predictability as to when to vote, elections will be conducted on the second Tuesday in March, third Tuesday in May, last Tuesday in August and the first Tuesday in November as follows:
 1. All partisan races (federal, state and county) will be held on even-numbered years. Included on even-numbered years will be some special district elections to reduce the number of elections on any given date.
 2. In even-numbered years any bond or levy question, statewide ballot questions and judicial races.
 3. All nonpartisan races (city, districts and boards) will be held on odd-numbered years. Included in odd years will be the majority of special districts plus local levy, local bond and local ballot questions.
 4. Schools receive two additional dates in any year for conducting only supplemental and bond levy elections - the second Tuesday in March and the last Tuesday in August. If a school chooses either of these dates, it is required to pay the cost of the election.
 5. Recall elections may be held as provided by statute.
- To increase voter participation, all elections will be held at traditional precinct polling places. The county clerk will coordinate and ensure the voter receives the appropriate ballots for all elections for each location. For example, the voter may receive a ballot for a school trustee election, city council election, recreation district, and a bond issue for a new city hall. How the respective ballots are identified will be at the discretion of the election officials.
- This election reform is about the mechanics of elections. It does not change same-day registration or absentee balloting.
- For some local taxing districts, it does change the term of office to accommodate the new voting dates.
- Effective date is January 1, 2011, except for Section 144, for which the effective date is January 1, 2010.

FISCAL NOTE

This legislation distributes \$3,100,000 to an election fund to the respective counties from the sales tax distribution formula. \$2,500,000 is paid by the State, \$400,000 by the cities, and \$200,000 by the local taxing districts. The schools are not assessed except insofar as they are required to pay for elections held in March or August. The fiscal impact to the General Fund is zero in fiscal year 2010 and \$2,500,000 in fiscal year 2011 and thereafter.



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